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Amendments to the specification:

Please amend paragraph [0048.5.3] as shown below.

[0048.5.3] ~~However, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the detailed description given herein with respect to the figures is for explanatory purposes as the invention extends beyond these limited embodiments.~~ FIG. 9 shows another embodiment of the present invention.

Please add paragraph [0048.5.4] as shown below.

[0048.5.4] However, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the detailed description given herein with respect to the figures is for explanatory purposes as the invention extends beyond these limited embodiments.

Please add paragraphs [0064.01] to [0064.12] as shown below.

[0064.01] In one embodiment, a system implements an embodiment of the present invention preferably in software and hardware. The system includes a server computer and a number of client computers. Each client computer communicates to the server computer through a dedicated communication link, or a computer network.

[0064.02] The client computer typically includes a bus connecting a number of components, such as a processing unit, a main memory, an I/O controller, a peripheral controller, a graphics adapter and a network interface adapter. The I/O controller is connected to components, such as a harddisk drive. The peripheral controller is connected to components, such as a keyboard. The graphics adapter is connected to a monitor, and the network interface adapter is connected to the network. The network includes the internet, an intranet, the world wide web and other forms of networks. Different components of the present invention can be in different elements.

[0064.03] In one embodiment, as long as study materials in an area have been presented to a

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user, it is assumed that the user has mastered the area.

[0064.04] In another embodiment, after presenting to the user study materials in an area questions are generated and presented to the user. Typical users gain a better understanding on a subject through actively working on questions, than just through passively reading study materials.

[0064.05] Regarding reinforcing through reviews, in one embodiment, an area is repeated to be learnt depends on the time elapsed from the time when the area was previously learnt. The selection process dis-favors the area that has just been learnt because presumably the area is still fresh in the user's mind. As time passes, the user's memory begins to fade, and should be refreshed. Typically, a user starts to forget what he has learnt a number of weeks, such as three, after he has learnt it. Thus, in one embodiment, the selection process starts favoring reviewing the area that has been learnt three weeks ago.

[0064.06] In another embodiment, the selection process dis-favors the area that has been learnt long time ago because presumably the user has learnt other more difficult area during the interim period. This is similar to a user learning a subject in a semester. After the end of the semester, the user stops reviewing the subject, and starts studying a more difficult subject. Typically, a semester is about three months or twelve weeks. Thus, in one embodiment, the selection process begins to dis-favor reviewing the area that has been learnt more than twelve weeks ago.

[0064.07] In one embodiment, the above elapsed time dependency in selection is embedded in a rule that is represented by the following equation:

$$\text{Weight } w(t) = k * e^{-at} * (1 - e^{-b})^b$$

where k, a, and b > 0. Here the time t starts counting from the time when the area is learnt. Initially, the weight function w(t) increases as time t increases, peaking with time being equal to  $\ln((a+b)/a)$ . From that point onwards, the function decreases as time further increases. The values for a and b are chosen to determine the position of the peak, and the value for k is used to adjust the variance of the function.

[0064.08] The bigger the weight of an area, the better the chance for that area to be selected. As an example, the weight is chosen to peak when t is between three weeks (or 21 days) and twelve weeks (or 84 days), which averages to 53 days. Thus, w(t) peaks around 53 days, implying that:

$$\ln((a+b)/a) = 53.$$

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[0064.09] The above exponential weight function is just an example representing the dependency on time. Other weight functions are also applicable, such as the Chi's Square functions.

[0064.10] In another embodiment, selecting an area that previously has been learnt depends on the mastery level achieved by the user. The lower the grade or the level achieved by the user, the higher the chance to select that area because the educational system should reinforce the user's weaker areas. Again, this can be represented by a weight function, which depends on the mastery level achieved by the user.

[0064.11] In yet another embodiment, selecting an area that previously has been learnt depends on the characteristics of the area, such as the difficulty level of the area. The more difficult the area, the higher the probability to select that area because it is more likely for the user to be weak in that area, or that area is more significant than other areas. Again, the dependency on difficulty level can be represented by a weight function, which tracks the difficulty level of the area.

[0064.12] For another different embodiment, selecting a previous area that has been learnt depends on whether that area is related to the most recently selected area to learn. This embodiment favors a previous area that is related to the most recently selected area because the user may form the relationship himself through working on both of them. For example, the most recently selected area just learnt is differentiating exponential functions. Then one previous area to review may be the hyperbolic sine and cosine functions. The idea is for the user to form the relationship himself that differentiating hyperbolic sine is the hyperbolic cosine, and vice versa. Typically, a user enjoys learning a subject and remembers it better if he thinks that he, by himself, has developed some insights in the subject.